

Appl. No. 10/549,389

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1. (previously presented)** A method for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following process:

a) a process to homogenize the collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor, to prepare a suspension thereof;

characterized by involving no procedure of separating cell components from the biological sample.

**Claim 2. (original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

**Claim 3. (currently amended)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

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**Claim 4. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample is feces.

**Claim 5. (previously presented)** A tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following processes:

- b) a process to extract RNA from the obtained sample for extracting RNA;
  - c) a process to reverse transcribe the extracted RNA to give cDNA;
  - d) a process to amplify the obtained cDNA; and
  - e) a process to detect the amplified cDNA,
- in addition to the method according to claim 1.

**Claim 6. (previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

**Claim 7. (previously presented)** A kit for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following means:

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a) a means to homogenize a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor, and prepare a suspension thereof;  
characterized by involving no means for separating cell components from the biological sample.

**Claim 8. (previously presented)** A kit according to claim 7, further comprising a means to freeze the collected biological sample.

**Claim 9. (previously presented)** A kit according to claim 7, wherein the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

**Claim 10. (previously presented)** A kit according to claim 7, wherein the biological sample comprises feces.

**Claim 11. (previously presented)** A tumor marker detecting kit for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following means:

b) a means to extract RNA from the obtained sample for

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extracting RNA;

c) a means to reverse transcribe the extracted RNA to give cDNA;

d) a means to amplify the obtained cDNA; and

e) a means to detect the amplified cDNA.

**Claim 12. (previously presented)** A kit according to claim 7, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.